


**REMARKS**

Applicants previously presented claims 1 through 39 for examination. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-15 and 17-39, which Applicants acknowledge with gratitude, and rejected claim 16.

By this amendment, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claim 16. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 17-39 remain pending. Since the Examiner has previously allowed all the pending claims, an early Notice of Allowance so as to allow priority for printing according to MPEP 1309 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner, upon reconsideration, determines that an action other than an allowance is appropriate, the Examiner is requested and authorized to telephone Applicants' representative at the Examiner's earliest convenience prior to taking such action, if the Examiner feels that such a telephone call will advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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